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50 cents

Today's Weather



Chance of showers

High 74 / Low 52

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Inside

Teens in crash sneaked out, trooper reports

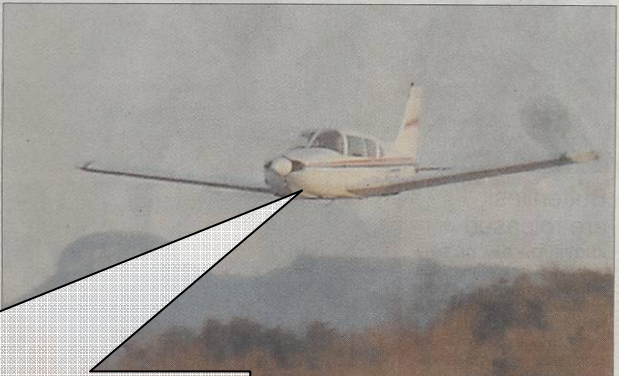
By ANGELA SCHMOLL
Associate Editor

DOBSON — The 15-year-old killed in an early morning accident Monday on Twin Oaks Road had sneaked out of her home, as had three of the five teens who were in the car, according to the state trooper who investigated the crash.

Courtney Wilmoth, a sophomore at Surry Central High

ports, the BMW was northbound on Twin Oaks Road when it rounded a curve near Caves Mill Road too fast, crossed the center line, then ran off the right shoulder of the road and overturned two times.

Ellison said the only person in the car wearing a seat belt was the driver, Wilmoth, who is the right rear seat belt. Ellison, 16, State Road, in the



Submitted Photo

Surry County Airport in this undated photograph. Between 15 and 20 planes will be competing in the Mayberry Air Race on Saturday, which will begin at 9 a.m. and run until around 2 p.m.

All compete in Mayberry Air Race

Freddy Gray, president of the association, said they also hope the event will get some people off the ground that have been sitting still.

“Really, it’s something we’re going to get the people out flying their airplanes,” Gray said. “The gas getting so high, it’s just sort of sitting on the tarmac.”

The exact route the planes will fly, which will take them about 100 miles before they return to Mount Airy, will not be released to pilots before a meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday.

Gray said pilots will not be given their route in advance because “what they’re being judged on is their skill to fly in a straight line between two points.”

Though the event is a race, Gray said the pilots will not be racing against each other.

“Instead of racing against the clock and we’ll compare that with the published speed of the airplane,” he said. “The overall winner will be the person who flies the route at the correct speed for the performance of their airplane.”

The planes will start taking off at 9:30 a.m., with one plane

leaving every 5 to 10 minutes. Though the planes will not be seen from the time they leave the airport until they return, Taylor said people attending the race can expect some excitement when they land.

“The main thing they will have to look forward to is a lot of these airplanes they see sitting on the tarmac (flying at their) all-out performance not too far off the ground,” said Taylor. He expects some planes will be traveling close to 200 miles per hour about 20 feet above the ground when they cross the finish line. “I think it’ll be exciting,” he said.

In addition to the race, some pilots will fly ultralight planes in exhibition.

The Civil Air Patrol will provide refreshments. If the race is a success, Gray said, the Surry Pilots Association might look at making it a regular event at the airport.

“It’s just a feeler for us, really,” he said. “We want to see what’s there, and there’s been a tremendous amount of interest in it.”

Admission is free. To learn more, call Gray at 786-7511.

You can reach Joel Frady at jfrady@mtairynews.com.



Submitted Photo

A plane lands at the Mount Airy/Surry County Airport in this undated photograph. Between 15 and 20 planes will be competing in the Mayberry Air Race on Saturday, which will begin at 9 a.m. and run until around 2 p.m.

Pilots will compete in Mayberry Air Race

By JOEL FRADY
Staff Writer

MOUNT AIRY — The Surry Pilots Association will host the Mayberry Air Race from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Mount Airy/Surry County Airport. The race will have 15 to 20 planes that will race a round-trip distance of 200 miles.

Thomas Taylor, vice president of the Surry Pilots Association, said he had been looking for event ideas and thought the Mayberry Air Race would be a good one.

“I wanted something that required more of a pilot skill” than the poker runs the airport holds, Taylor said. “The air race is based on the performance of the airplane you’re flying. It gives everyone a chance to win.”

Freddy Gray, president of the association, said they also hope the event will get some planes off the ground that have been sitting still.

“Really, it’s something we’re doing to get the people out flying their airplanes,” Gray said. “With gas getting so high, everyone’s just sort of sitting on the tarmac.”

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Wellness policy ready for review

WENDY BYERLY
WOOD
Staff Writer

DOBSON — By the end of the current fiscal year, which is June 30, all school systems in North Carolina must adopt a wellness policy. The Surry County Schools’ draft has been presented to the board and is available to the public for review before its final vote.

The county schools’ policy sets nutrition standards and guidelines for physical activity and health education. The policy was developed by the School Advisory Council made up of parents, students, school employees and community members. The proposed policy was presented to the school system’s Leadership Council, which consists of the 16 principals and other key administrators.

Surry High School Principal Tony Hall and Sherri Smith, director of Surry County Child Nutrition, presented the policy to the school board at its April meeting.

Hall said he had some reservations at the beginning, but after the board’s discussion, he introduced the policy. He noted that the principals were most concerned about

how this will affect their fundraisers. Our school-wide fundraiser has always been to sell candy bars, but this proposal, if adopted, would put limits on this.

What Hall referred to are the policy’s nutrition standards that detail Surry County Schools’ Healthy Food and Beverage Guidelines. It states, “Food and beverages shall contain no more than 35 percent of total calories from fat, excluding nuts and seeds; no more than 10 percent of total calories from saturated fats; and no more than 35 percent added sugar by weight.”

Those guidelines apply to “after-school snacks; classroom events; school stores; and fundraisers involving food and beverages sold on school premises.”

The policy goes on to say, “Events after school hours held on school premises should provide at least three options that meet the Healthy Food and Beverage Guidelines. Each class should hold no more than one party/celebration per month involving foods that do not meet the Healthy Food and Beverage Guidelines.”

Vending machines are also addressed in the proposed wellness policy, noting that “food, beverages and snacks shall not

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